

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A memory structure, comprising:

a. an Address Resolution Table for resolving addresses in a packet-based network switch and using a key to index a location within the Address Resolution Table;

b. a Packet Storage Table, the Packet Storage Table adapted to receive a packet for storage in the packet-based network switch, and sharing a preselected portion of memory with the Address Resolution Table; and

c. a single buffer per packet mechanism configured to receive an individual packet for enabling only one transmit descriptor read per said individual packet and for enabling an execution of a single access in order to locate an entire packet at the location using the key, wherein the entire packet is to be transmitted.

2. (Currently Amended) The memory structure of claim 1, further comprising at least one of:

a. a Transmit Descriptor Table being associated with a corresponding packet-based network transmit port; and

b. a Free Buffer Pool having plural memory buffers, each of the plural memory buffers having a pre-determined number of memory locations associated therewith.

3. (Previously Presented) The memory structure of claim 1 wherein the packet-based network switch implements an IEEE standard 802.3 communication protocol.

4. (Previously Presented) The memory structure of claim 3 wherein the switch comprises plural ports.

5. (Previously Presented) The memory structure of claim 4 wherein the switch comprises at least 8 ports.

6. (Previously Presented) The memory structure of claim 1 wherein an associative memory structure comprises one of an n -way associative memory, a hash table, a binary search structure, and a sequential search structure.

7. (Currently Amended) The memory structure of claim 3 wherein the number of memory accesses required per Ethernet frame is one of:

- a. one cycle per frame for address resolution;
- b. one cycle per frame for address learning;
- c. one cycle per frame for transmission read;
- d. one cycle per frame for transmission write;
- e. one cycle per eight bytes for a frame data read; and
- f. one cycle per eight bytes for a frame data write.

8. (Currently Amended) A memory structure comprising an Address Resolution Table having an associative memory structure, the Address Resolution Table for resolving addresses in a packet-based network switch and using a key to index a location within the Address Resolution Table, and a single buffer per packet mechanism configured to receive an individual packet for enabling only one transmit descriptor read per said individual packet and for enabling an execution of a single access in order to locate an entire packet at the location using the key, wherein the entire packet is to be transmitted.

9. (Previously Presented) The memory structure of claim 8 further comprising a Packet Storage Table, the Packet Storage Table adapted to receive at least one of each of a Packet Data Address and a Packet Data Value.

10. (Previously Presented) The memory structure of claim 9 further comprising a Transmit Descriptor Table, the Transmit Descriptor Table being associated with a corresponding packet-based network transmit port, and the Transmit Descriptor Table adapted to receive a Table Descriptor Address and a Table Descriptor Value.

11. (Previously Presented) The memory structure of claim 8 wherein the associative memory structure comprises one of a direct-mapped/one-way associative memory structure and a two-way associative memory structure.

12. (Currently Amended) The memory structure of claim 11 wherein the number of memory accesses required per Ethernet frame is one of:

- a. one cycle per frame for address resolution;
- b. one cycle per frame for address learning;
- c. one cycle per frame for transmission read;
- d. one cycle per frame for transmission write;
- e. one cycle per eight bytes for a frame data read; and
- f. one cycle per eight bytes for a frame data write.

13. (Currently Amended) A memory structure having a memory block, the memory block comprising:

a. an Address Resolution Table having an associative memory structure, the Address Resolution Table for resolving addresses in a packet-based network switch and using a key to index a location within the Address Resolution Table;

b. a Transmit Descriptor Table, the Transmit Descriptor Table being associated with a corresponding packet-based network transmit port, and the Transmit Descriptor Table adapted to receive a Table Descriptor Address and a Table Descriptor Value;

e. a Packet Storage Table, the Packet Storage Table adapted to receive at least one of each of a Packet Data Address portion and a Packet Data Value portion; and

d. a single buffer per packet mechanism configured to receive an individual packet for enabling only one transmit descriptor read per said individual packet and for enabling an execution of a single access in order to locate an entire packet at the location using the key, wherein the entire packet is to be transmitted.

14. (Previously Presented) The memory structure of claim 13 wherein the associative memory structure comprises one of an n -way associative memory, a hash table, a binary search structure, and a sequential search structure.

15. (Previously Presented) The memory structure of claim 13 wherein the memory block comprises a shared memory block.

16. (Previously Presented) The memory structure of claim 13 wherein the Transmit Descriptor Table comprises a FIFO memory structure.

17. (Previously Presented) The memory structure of claim 16 wherein the FIFO memory structure comprises a circular FIFO memory structure, the FIFO memory structure having a head memory pointer and tail memory pointer.

18. (Previously Presented) The memory structure of claim 13 further comprising a Free Buffer Pool having plural memory buffers, each of the plural memory buffers having a pre-determined number of memory locations associated therewith.

19. (Previously Presented) The memory structure of claim 18, wherein the Free Buffer Pool further comprises a buffer control memory.

20. (Previously Presented) The memory structure of claim 19, wherein the free buffer pool control memory comprises plural memory bits, ones of the plural data bits uniquely corresponding to ones of the pre-determined number of buffer pool memory locations.

21. (Previously Presented) The memory structure of claim 18, wherein at least two of the Address Resolution Table, the Transmit Descriptor Table, the Packet Storage Table, and the Free Buffer Pool share a memory block.

22. (Currently Amended) The memory structure of claim 21 wherein a packet-based network switch implements an IEEE Standard 802.3 communication protocol and wherein a number of memory accesses required per Ethernet frame is one of:

- a. one cycle per frame for address resolution;
- b. one cycle per frame for address learning;

- e. one cycle per frame for transmission read;
- d. one cycle per frame for transmission write;
- e. one cycle per eight bytes for a frame data read; and
- f. one cycle per eight bytes for a frame data write.

23. (Currently Amended) The memory structure of claim 18, further comprising a free buffer manager, including:

- a. a buffer bus controller;
- b. a buffer bus register;
- e. a buffer control finite state machine, operably coupled with the bus controller and the bus register; and
- d. a buffer search engine, operably coupled with the bus controller, bus register, and finite state machine.

24. (Currently Amended) The memory structure of claim 23 wherein the buffer bus controller comprises:

- a. a buffer free bus controller for detecting a buffer request and presenting the request to at least one of the finite state machine and the buffer search engine; and
- b. a buffer grant bus controller for granting an available free buffer, as indicated by the buffer, as indicated by the buffer bus register.

25. (Previously Presented) The memory structure of claim 23 wherein the buffer search engine comprises a pipelined buffer search engine.

26. (Previously Presented) The memory structure of claim 23 wherein the buffer bus register comprises a LIFO.

27. (Previously Presented) The memory structure of claim 26 wherein the LIFO comprises an eight-location LIFO.

28. (Currently Amended) A packet-based switch comprising a shared memory structure having an Address Resolution Table and a Packet Storage Table, a key to index a location within the Address Resolution Table, and a single buffer per packet mechanism configured to receive an individual packet for enabling only one transmit descriptor read per said individual packet and for enabling an execution of a single access in order to locate an entire packet at the location using the key, wherein the entire packet is to be transmitted.

29. (Previously Presented) The packet-based switch of claim 28 wherein the switch implements an IEEE Standard 802.3 communication protocol.

30. (Previously Presented) The packet-based switch of claim 29 wherein the switch comprises plural ports.

31. (Currently Amended) The packet-based switch of claim 28 wherein the number of memory accesses required per Ethernet frame is one of:

- a. one cycle per frame for address resolution;
- b. one cycle per frame for address learning;
- c. one cycle per frame for transmission read;
- d. one cycle per frame for transmission write;
- e. one cycle per eight bytes for a frame data read; and
- f. one cycle per eight bytes for a frame data write.

32. (Currently Amended) A packet-based switch having a memory structure, the memory structure comprising:

a. an Address Resolution Table having an associative memory structure, the Address Resolution Table for resolving addresses in a packet-based network switch and using a key to index a location with the Address Resolution Table;

b. a Transmit Descriptor Table, the Transmit Descriptor Table being associated with a corresponding packet-based network transmit port, and the Transmit Descriptor Table adapted to receive a Table Descriptor Address and a Table Descriptor Value;

e. a Packet Storage Table, the Packet Storage Table adapted to receive at least one of each of a Packet Data Address portion and a Packet Data Value portion; and

f. a single buffer per packet mechanism configured to receive an individual packet for enabling only one transmit descriptor read per said individual packet and for enabling an execution of a single access in order to locate an entire packet at the location using the key, wherein the entire packet is to be transmitted.

33. (Previously Presented) The packet-based switch of claim 32, wherein the associative memory structure comprises one of an n -way associative memory, a hash table, a binary search structure, and a sequential search structure.

34. (Previously Presented) The packet-based switch of claim 32 wherein the memory block comprises a shared memory block.

35. (Previously Presented) The packet-based switch of claim 32 wherein the Transmit Descriptor Table comprises a FIFO memory structure.

36. (Previously Presented) The packet-based switch of claim 35 wherein the FIFO memory structure comprises a circular FIFO memory structure the FIFO memory structure having a head memory pointer and a tail memory pointer.

37. (Previously Presented) The packet-based switch of claim 32 further comprising a Free Buffer Pool having plural memory buffers, each of the plural memory buffers having a pre-determined number of memory locations associated therewith.

38. (Previously Presented) The packet-based switch of claim 37, wherein the Free Buffer Pool further comprises a buffer control memory.

39. (Previously Presented) The packet-based switch of claim 38, wherein the free buffer pool control memory comprises plural memory bits, ones of the plural data bits uniquely corresponding to ones of the predetermined number of buffer pool memory locations.

40. (Previously Presented) The packet-based switch of claim 37, wherein at least two of the Address Resolution Table, the Transmit Descriptor Table, the Packet Storage Table, and the Free Buffer Pool share a memory block.

41. (Currently Amended) The packet-based switch of claim 34 wherein a packet-based network switch implements an IEEE Standard 802.3 communication protocol and wherein a number of memory accesses required per Ethernet frame is one of:

- a. one cycle per frame for address resolution;
- b. one cycle per frame for address learning;

- e. one cycle per frame for transmission read;
- d. one cycle per frame for transmission write;
- e. one cycle per eight bytes for a frame data read; and
- f. one cycle per eight bytes for a frame data write.

42. (Currently Amended) The packet-based switch of claim 38, further comprising a free buffer manager, including:

- a. a buffer bus controller;
- b. a buffer bus register;
- c. a buffer control finite state machine, operably coupled with the bus controller and the bus register; and
- d. a buffer search engine, operably coupled with the bus controller, bus register, and finite state machine.

43. (Currently Amended) The packet-based switch of claim 42 wherein the buffer bus controller comprises:

- a. a buffer free bus controller for detecting a buffer request and present the request to at least one of the finite state machine and the buffer search engine; and
- b. a buffer grant bus controller for granting an unavailable free buffer, as indicated by the buffer bus register.

44. (Previously Presented) The packet-based switch of claim 42 wherein the buffer search engine comprises a pipelined buffer search engine.

45. (Previously Presented) The packet-based switch of claim 42 wherein the buffer bus register comprises a LIFO.

46. (Previously Presented) The packet-based switch of claim 45 wherein the LIFO comprises an eight-location LIFO.

47. (Previously Presented) The packet-based switch of claim 33 wherein the switch implements an IEEE Standard 802.3 communication protocol.

48. (Previously Presented) The packet-based switch of claim 47 wherein the switch comprises plural ports.

49. (Previously Presented) The packet-based switch of claim 47 wherein the switch comprises at least 4 ports.

50. (Previously Presented) The packet-based switch of claim 47 wherein the switch comprises at least 8 ports.

51. (Currently Amended) The packet-based switch of claim 45 wherein a packet-based network switch implements an IEEE Standard 802.3 communication protocol and wherein a number of memory accesses required per Ethernet frame is one of:

- a. one cycle per frame for address resolution;
- b. one cycle per frame for address learning;
- c. one cycle per frame for transmission read;
- d. one cycle per frame for transmission write;
- e. one cycle per eight bytes for a frame data read; and
- f. one cycle per eight bytes for a frame data write.

52. (Currently Amended) A packet-based switch comprising an Address Resolution Table having a one-way associative memory structure and using a key to index a location within the Address Resolution Table, and a Packet Data Buffer Table sharing a memory block with an Address Resolution Table, and a single buffer per packet mechanism configured to receive an individual packet for enabling only one transmit descriptor read per said individual packet and for enabling an execution of a single access in order to locate an entire packet at the location using the key, wherein the entire packet is to be transmitted.

53. (Previously Presented) The packet-based switch of claim 52 wherein the switch comprises plural ports.

54. (Previously Presented) The packet-based switch of claim 52 wherein the switch comprises at least 4 ports.

55. (Previously Presented) The packet-based switch of claim 52 wherein the switch comprises at least 8 ports.

56. (Currently Amended) The packet-based switch of claim 52 wherein a packet-based network switch implements an IEEE Standard 802.3 communication protocol and wherein a number of memory accesses required per Ethernet frame is one of:

- a. one cycle per frame for address resolution;
- b. one cycle per frame for address learning;
- c. one cycle per frame for transmission read;
- d. one cycle per frame for transmission write;
- e. one cycle per eight bytes for a frame data read; and
- f. one cycle per eight bytes for a frame data write.

57. (Currently Amended) A packet-based switch, comprising an Address Resolution Table having a direct-mapped/one-way associative memory structure, the Address Resolution Table for resolving addresses in a packet-based network switch, a key to index a location within the Address Resolution Table, and a single buffer per

packet mechanism configured to receive an individual packet for enabling only one transmit descriptor read per said individual packet and for enabling an execution of a single access in order to locate an entire packet at the location using the key, wherein the entire packet is to be transmitted.

58. (Previously Presented) The packet-based switch of claim 57 wherein the direct-mapped/one-way associative memory is searched using a destination address key direct-mapped address search.

59. (Previously Presented) The packet-based switch of claim 58 wherein the switch implements an IEEE Standard 802.3 communication protocol.

60. (Previously Presented) The packet-based switch of claim 59, wherein the switch comprises plural ports.